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Quanah and Cynthia Ann Parker: The History and the Legend

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Quanah & Cynthia Ann Parker: **The History and the Legend**



Eastern Illinois University

Booth Library

February 7 - April 9, 2015



Quanah & Cynthia Ann Parker:

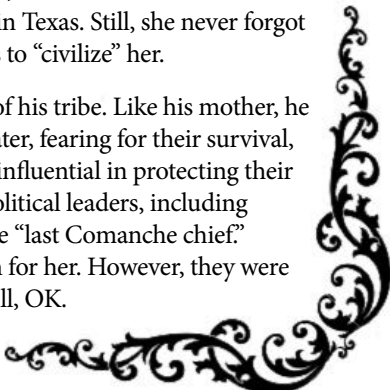
The History and the Legend

The story of Quanah and Cynthia Ann Parker is one of love and hate, freedom and captivity, joy and sorrow. And it began with a typical colonial family's quest for a better life.

Like many early American settlers, Elder John Parker, a Revolutionary War veteran and Baptist minister, constantly felt the pull to blaze the trail into the West, spreading the word of God along the way. He led his family of 13 children and their descendants to Virginia, Georgia and Tennessee before coming to Illinois, where they were among the first white settlers of what is now Coles County, arriving in c. 1824. The Parkers were influential in colonizing the region, building the first mill, forming churches and organizing government. One of Elder John's many grandchildren was Cynthia Ann Parker, who was born c. 1827.

But the Parker family's saga didn't end here. Several members of the Parker clan pulled up roots again, leaving Illinois to create Fort Parker in Texas in 1833. A few years later, a band of Indians attacked the fort, killing many and kidnapping a few of the children, including Cynthia Ann, age 9. She grew up as a member of the Comanche tribe, marrying one of the chiefs and bearing three children; the oldest of these was Quanah. The Parker family, particularly her Uncle James, spent many years searching for the white captives. Cynthia Ann, however, rejected any attempts to reunite with the Parkers, wishing to remain with her Comanche family. Nevertheless, she found herself a captive again in 1860, when U.S. soldiers who attacked a Comanche camp reunited Cynthia Ann with her Parker relatives in Texas. Still, she never forgot her Indian family and wished to return to them, rejecting the Parkers' efforts to "civilize" her.

Quanah Parker grew up as a fierce Comanche warrior and became a leader of his tribe. Like his mother, he initially refused attempts by the U.S. government to civilize his people. But later, fearing for their survival, he led his tribe peacefully onto an Oklahoma reservation, where he became influential in protecting their rights. He was well-known in Washington, D.C., and became friends with political leaders, including President Teddy Roosevelt. U.S. officials later bestowed on him the title of the "last Comanche chief." Quanah never forgot his mother and used his political connections to search for her. However, they were reunited only after her death and are buried together in a cemetery at Fort Sill, OK.





Quanah Parker, 1892, taken in Star House near Cache, Okla. A painting of his mother, Cynthia Ann, and sister, Prairie Flower, sits on his left. Photo courtesy of National Anthropological Archives.

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Welcome

Dear Friends,

Booth Library welcomes you to our spring exhibition and program series, *Quanah and Cynthia Ann Parker: The History and the Legend*. What started out as a spark of interest in a story of local history has expanded over many months to become the comprehensive program we present to you today.

We are especially excited about this particular project because of its significance to local history. The Parkers were among the first settlers on this land we call home here in Coles County, and their impact in laying the foundation for the region, the City of Charleston and Eastern Illinois University is worth a closer look.

In addition, the story of Cynthia Ann Parker's kidnapping and life with the Comanches, as well as the historical and political influence of her son, Quanah, the last Comanche chief, has inspired novels, movies, plays and more over the past century.

This exhibit and program series has been made possible in part by a grant from the Illinois Humanities Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Illinois General Assembly. We are proud to work with our local partners, the Coles County Genealogical Society, the Coles County Historical Society and the Tarble Arts Center, and we are especially grateful to local historians and members of the Parker Family who provided us with much support while planning this series.

I welcome our campus and community visitors, and I look forward to meeting the members of the Parker Family who have traveled from near and far to learn more about their heritage.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allen Lanham", with a stylized, flowing script.

Allen Lanham, Ph.D.
Dean of Library Services



*Quanah Parker,
1892. Photo
courtesy of
National
Anthropological
Archives.*



Opening Reception

Friday, February 20, 2015, 7 p.m.
Buzzard Hall Auditorium, Room 1501

Welcome

Allen Lanham, dean of library services

Greetings

Blair Lord, provost and vice president for academic affairs

Recognition of Presenters and Curators

Robert L. Martínez, assistant professor of English and chair, Library Advisory Board

Closing

Dean Lanham

Light Refreshments

Opening Program

7:30 p.m., Buzzard Hall Auditorium, Room 1501

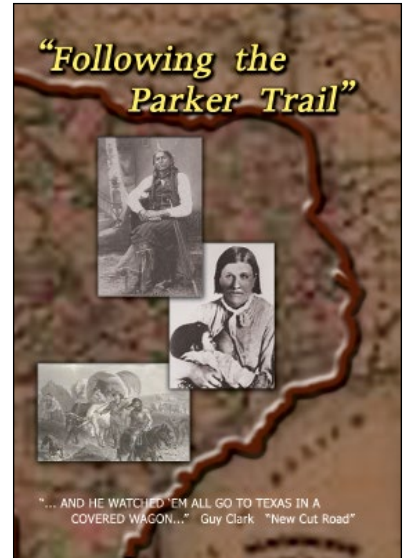
On the Trail with the Parkers

Presented by Audrey Kalivoda, producer of *Following the Parker Trail*, Mesquite 90 Productions, 2013

The Parker story is also the story of so many of us. Many of our ancestors left Europe, moved west across “the big water” and just kept on going west. We all grew up with stories of the Oregon Trail, Santa Fe Trail and California Trail; but that first great move west — to Ohio, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois — is a story not always told.

The Parkers forged their own trail west, traveling 2,500 miles through 12 states and settling in Maryland, Virginia, Georgia, Tennessee and Illinois, in present-day Coles County. In June 1833 the Parkers were on the move again, this time to Texas. It's not hard to imagine that many of Elder John's children were tired of the travel. By now they were adults with children and grandchildren. The lure of the open road may have been lost on them. In fact, some settled and chose to stay, but most chose to follow their family on what turned out to be the final, heartbreaking leg of their journey west, to Fort Parker, Texas.

What drove the Parkers — Elder John's family and folks like them — to move, move and move again? This presentation will examine this question and will include a viewing of the documentary, *Following the Parker Trail*.



Audrey Kalivoda of Nashville, TN, was born in north central Kansas and has always held strong to her Midwest background. Photography, history and travel played an important role in her early years. After attending Marymount College she spent several years with her portrait studio in Nashville. Her first documentary focused on the Palo Duro Canyon in Texas. Later, she completed *Kansas....the Center of it All* in honor of her home state's 150th anniversary of statehood. She is owner of Mesquite 90 Productions, which produces travel/history documentaries. *Following the Parker Trail* is her sixth documentary.

Programs

Quanah and Cynthia Ann Parker: The History and the Legend

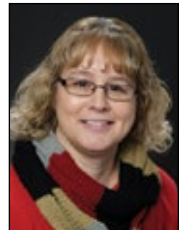
Thursday, Feb. 12, 6 p.m., Crawford County Historical Society Museum, 408 S. Cross St., Robinson, IL
Presented by Beth Heldebrandt, Booth Library public relations director

The saga of Cynthia Ann and Quanah Parker is well-known in Texas history, but the story really began here in East Central Illinois. Cynthia Ann's grandfather, Elder John Parker, her uncles, Benjamin and Daniel Parker, and other members of the family were among the first white settlers of Crawford and Coles counties. This program will take a look at the Parkers' significance in local history, as well as present the saga of Cynthia Ann's life with the Comanches and her son, Quanah's, influence as the last Comanche chief in America. This presentation will serve as a preview of the Booth Library exhibit and the programs scheduled on the Eastern Illinois University campus on Feb. 20-23.



Isaac Parker's cabin at its original location near Birdville, Texas. Cynthia Ann Parker was repatriated in December 1860 by Captain Lawrence Sullivan Ross. Prairie Flower (Topsannah) was with her mother at the time of capture. Cynthia Ann and Prairie Flower were brought to Isaac Parker's cabin to live. The cabin can be visited at Log Cabin Village, Fort Worth, Texas. Photo from the collection of Mr. and Mrs. Carrol Mathews, c. 1920s.

Beth Heldebrandt is public relations director at Booth Library. She earned a B.S. in journalism from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and an M.A. in English from Eastern Illinois University. She is an adjunct instructor for Eastern's journalism department, chairwoman of the Mattoon Arts Council and secretary of the Tarble Arts Center Advisory Board.



Preserving Parker Cemetery

Friday, Feb. 20, 2 p.m., West Reading Room, Booth Library
Presented by David Parker and James David Parker

Parker Cemetery is a rural cemetery located in Hutton Township, Coles County, about two miles south and three miles west of Westfield, IL. David Parker and James David Parker have spent many months cleaning up the site and uncovering important pieces of local history. In this program they will detail the history of the “Prairie Parkers” and their connection to the “Preachin’ Parkers,” who were the family of Quanah and Cynthia Ann. Their presentation also will discuss cemetery cleanup and restoration efforts, including stone readings and site mapping. One Revolutionary War and at least eight Civil War soldiers have been found to be buried there, and public events have welcomed many Parker descendants to the cemetery.



Parker Cemetery in Hutton Township, Coles County.

David and James David Parker’s great-great-great-great-grandfather is James P. Parker (1752-1835), who followed the Buffalo Trace across Indiana to Crawford County, IL, in 1817. James and wife Anna (Mayflower) Doty later joined their sons at the Clark-Coles County line on the north edge of Parker Prairie. James P. Parker is now recognized by the family experts of the Parker DNA Project as the brother of Elder John Parker, grandfather of Cynthia Ann and great-grandfather of Quanah.

James David Parker from Memphis, MO, is retired from the United States Air Force after serving four tours overseas and being stationed in California, Washington, Utah and twice in Wichita Falls, TX (Quanah Parker’s stomping grounds). He has three sons and four grandchildren. Hobbies include hunting, fishing, golf and most recently, genealogy. He is the son of David and Marilyn (Henderson) Parker and the first of his family not born in Westfield or Illinois. James David Parker’s y-DNA was the first tested as part of the Parker DNA Project that confirmed James P. Parker as the brother of Elder John Parker.



David Parker and his wife, Sue, of Pendleton, IN, have been married for 50 years. They have three sons, seven grandchildren and one great-grandson. Parker worked in the automotive industry for 45 years and after two years of retirement, he has worked as an engineer in the aerospace industry. After family, his passion is genealogy.

Parker Pioneer Burial Ground Historic Preservation and Mapping Initiative

Friday, Feb. 20, 3 p.m., West Reading Room, Booth Library

Presented by Stephen Di Naso, geospatial scientist, Department of Geology and Geography

In addition to being a valuable and insightful proxy of community, cemeteries such as Parker Cemetery have the advantage of being ubiquitous. They are virtually everywhere, found in nearly every community. Communities too small to have ever had town halls or any public buildings, too small to have ever had post offices or libraries or their own newspapers still have their own cemeteries, and often more than one. In that regard, cemeteries often constitute the only record, evidence or testimony of a community's existence. Cemeteries are the surviving, remaining monuments to communities that are no more.

The Parker Cemetery digital historic preservation project uses state-of-the-art technology, including unmanned aircraft systems, high-resolution, Real Time Kinematic Global Positioning Systems, Total Station methodologies, innovative field data collection methods, geophysical prospecting methods and cloud-based GISci technologies to collect, analyze, archive and disseminate digital historical data. This intercollegiate and collaborative effort between Eastern Illinois University, Southern Illinois University, Lake Land College, the Central Wabash Valley Archaeological Association, the Westfield Library and the Clark County Historical Society permitted students to interact among and between respective disciplines, culminating in a unique interdisciplinary and integrative student learning experience with university faculty and affiliated professionals.



Parker Cemetery in Hutton Township, Coles County.

Steven M. Di Naso is a geospatial scientist and instructor in the Department of Geology and Geography, Eastern Illinois University. He is the co-coordinator and co-manager of the GISci and GIS Special Projects Labs, and served as a director of the Geographic Information Sciences Center at EIU from 2010 to 2014. He has more than 25 years of experience in applied geographic information science and technology and is an authorized ESRI ATP/CTP GIS instructor. He earned a B.S. in geology from EIU and an M.A. in geography from Indiana State University, where he is pursuing a Ph.D.



Quanah Parker and the Battle of Adobe Walls

Saturday, Feb. 21, 10 a.m., West Reading Room, Booth Library
Presented by Dr. Richard Hummel, professor emeritus of sociology

The Battle of Adobe Walls on June 26, 1874, involved an estimated 700 Comanche warriors led by chief Quanah Parker attacking the frontier town of Adobe Walls in the north Texas panhandle. Their target was the 28 buffalo hunters (and one woman) who were violating native American traditional hunting grounds by harvesting the hides of the Native Americans' critical food supply. Three hunters and an estimated 27 Native Americans were killed in the ensuing exchange of gunfire over three days. On the third day of the siege a buffalo hunter, Billy Dixon, shot at and hit a native American at a distance of almost one mile (1,500-plus yards). That incident apparently led the Comanches to abandon the siege. The subsequent leadership decisions of Quanah Parker resulted in profound changes in relationships between the two sides of the decades-long conflict.



Quanah Parker and Isa-tai, Battle of Adobe Walls, painting by Steven Lang, Lang Fine Western Art Marina, CA. Reprinted with permission.

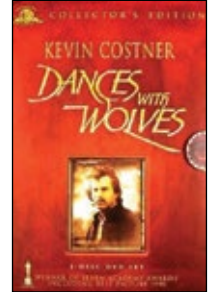
Richard Hummel grew up in Elkhart, IN, and graduated from Elkhart High School in 1958. He attended Wabash College, graduated from Kalamazoo College in 1962 and earned graduate degrees at Indiana University, finishing with a Ph.D. in sociology in 1976. Hummel joined the Eastern Illinois University Sociology-Anthropology Department in 1969 and taught a variety of courses during his 31-year career. He retired in 2001. Since 2009 he has developed summer programs for the Five Mile House Foundation. He is especially interested in topics celebrating local history events, the Parker family story being a recent example.



Turning Hell Into a Home: Depictions of Native Americans on Film

Saturday, Feb. 21, 11 a.m., West Reading Room, Booth Library
Presented by Dr. Robin Murray, professor of English

On July 4, 1898, Quanah Parker asserted, “We fear your success. This was a pretty country you took away from us — but you see how dry it is now. It is only good for red ants, coyotes, and cattlemen.” Although American Indians were portrayed sympathetically in silent films such as *The Red Girl* (1908), *Hiawatha* (1914) and *The Vanishing American* (1925), in most later Westerns these representations primarily turned savage. According to researcher Scott Simmon, they devolve along two paths, “one about war, the other about love — neither leading anywhere except Indian death.” Films highlighting Quanah Parker such as *Comanche* (dir. Carl Krueger, 1956) and *The Searchers* (dir. John Ford, 1956) illustrate this change. It is only when they are constructed by American Indian filmmakers such as Chris Eyre and Sherman Alexie that representations of American Indians regain authenticity and serve as more powerful critiques of environmental degradation. In their *Smoke Signals*, for example, Victor Joseph (Adam Beach) and Thomas Builds-a-Fire (Evan Adams) find a way to turn the hell of his reservation household into a home. Even as a child, he attempts to adapt his environment to make it more habitable, just as Thomas adapts a lifeless river into a thriving ecosystem through his dreams.



In a move toward a more sustainable view of prairie and desert ecosystems, American Indians in western films from *Comanche* and *The Searchers* to *Dances with Wolves* adapt a seemingly lifeless environment into a place they can call home. This narrative of environmental adaptation continues even into contemporary western films set on and near reservation lands and gains particular force in Eyre and Alexie's *Smoke Signals* (1998).

Robin L. Murray is professor of English at Eastern Illinois University, where she teaches film and literature courses and coordinates the film studies minor. Murray co-authored four books with Joseph K. Heumann: *Ecology and Popular Film: Cinema on the Edge* (SUNY Press, 2009), *That's All Folks?: The Ecology of the American Animated Feature* (U. Nebraska Press, 2011), *Gunfight at the Eco-Corral: Western Cinema and the Environment* (U. Oklahoma Press, 2012) and *Film and Everyday Ecodisasters* (U. Nebraska Press, 2014). They are currently working on a manuscript exploring monstrous nature. They also maintain an ecocinema and film genre blog: <http://ecocinema.blogspot.com/>. She earned a B.A. from Oakland University, M.A. from The Ohio State University and a Ph.D. from the University of Toledo.



Film Screening and Discussion: “Daughter of Dawn”

Saturday, Feb. 21, 1 p.m., Buzzard Hall Auditorium, Room 1501

Presented by Dr. Malgorzata Rymza-Pawlowska, assistant professor of history

In the summer of 1920, 300 Kiowa and Comanche Indians participated in the making of a six-reel silent film titled *The Daughter of Dawn*. They brought their own clothing, props and horses to the Wichita Mountains in southwest Oklahoma, and for three months shot an epic film that included a love triangle, buffalo hunting and battle scenes. The film stars White Parker and Wanada Parker, the children of Quanah Parker. The film was screened publicly only once, and then, like many other early silent films, lost for decades. It was recently rediscovered and donated to the Oklahoma Historical Society.



Esther LeBarre and White Parker appear in a scene from *The Daughter of Dawn*.

In 2013, *The Daughter of Dawn* was selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as being “culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant.” This program will feature a short introduction, screening, and audience discussion of *The Daughter of Dawn* and its significance, both within the history of early cinema and as an important documentation of Native American life and culture in the early 20th century.

Malgorzata J. Rymza-Pawlowska is assistant professor in the Department of History and the graduate program in historical administration. Her research and teaching interests include 19th- and 20th-century U.S. history, media history and theory, critical theory, museum studies, public history and digital humanities. Her work has appeared in the *Journal of Popular Film and Television*, *Film & History*, *The Public Historian*, and *Technology and Culture*. She is working on a manuscript on historical consciousness in the postwar U.S. At Eastern she is chairwoman of the Digital Humanities Committee at the Humanities Center. She has a Ph.D. in American studies from Brown University, and M.A. degrees in public humanities from Brown University and communication, culture and technology from Georgetown University.



Film Screening and Discussion: “The Searchers”

Saturday, Feb. 21, 3:30 p.m., Buzzard Hall Auditorium, Room 1501

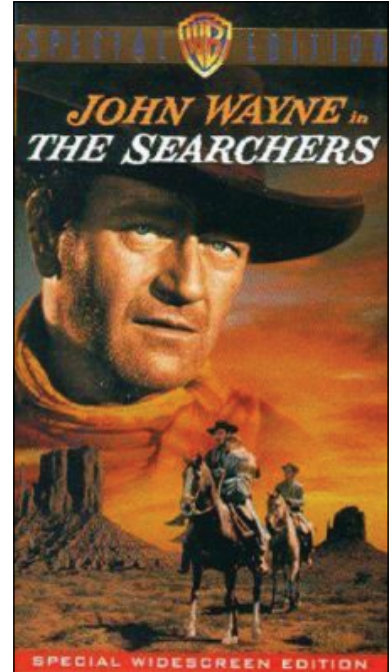
Presented by Joseph Heumann, professor emeritus of communication studies

The Searchers is John Ford’s most complex western, inspired by Cynthia Ann Parker’s abduction and her Uncle James Parker’s quest to find her. The film focuses on numerous issues, none more important than the racist hatred that drives the main



Natalie Wood appears in a scene from *The Searchers*. Wood’s character, Debbie, was inspired by the story of Cynthia Ann Parker.

character, Ethan Edwards (John Wayne), through the course of his five-year search for his kidnapped niece. His hatred is matched by that of his Comanche alter ego, Scar, who in part embodies much of the power that Quanah Parker represented in historical fact. The clash of these two characters is one of the primary focal points of the film and shapes the external and internal landscapes of this epic film.



Joseph K. Heumann is professor emeritus of communication studies at Eastern Illinois University and still teaches various film courses. He co-authored four books with Robin L. Murray: *Ecology and Popular Film: Cinema on the Edge* (SUNY Press, 2009), *That’s All Folks?: The Ecology of the American Animated Feature* (U. Nebraska Press, 2011), *Gunfight at the Eco-Corral: Western Cinema and the Environment* (U. Oklahoma Press, 2012), and *Film and Everyday Ecodisasters* (U. Nebraska Press, 2014). They are currently working on a manuscript exploring monstrous nature. They also maintain an ecocinema and film genre blog: <http://ecocinema.blogspot.com/>. Heumann earned a B.A. from Knox College and an M.A. from the University of Iowa.



Panel Discussion:

American Captivity Narratives: A Literary Genre of Enduring Interest

Monday, Feb. 23, 4:30 p.m., Witters Conference Room 4440, Booth Library

Moderated by Dr. Terry Barnhart, professor of history

Panelists: Janice Derr, assistant professor of library services; Dr. Angela Vietto, professor of English; Laura Russman, graduate student in historical administration

American captivity narratives have been the subject of sustained interest among scholars in several fields of research, including history, anthropology, literary studies and gender studies. These panelists will explore the genre, the constructions placed on them by those who read them, and invite the audience to discuss the themes explored. Captivity narratives provide readers a window into Native American cultures on various American frontiers. The story of Rachel Plummer and her cousin Cynthia Ann Parker is one such story.

The Comanche took Rachel and Cynthia Ann captive during the 1836 raid on Fort Parker. Plummer wrote about her captivity in *Rachael Plummer's Narrative of Twenty One Month's Servitude as a Prisoner among the Commanchee Indians*. Written to draw attention to the plight of other captives, the narrative also provides readers with a valuable glimpse at Comanche life. Published in 1838, it became widely successful and went on to be revised and reprinted many times. Rachel's story, like the stories of many captives, has been told and retold until it has reached mythic proportions. How might Cynthia Ann Parker's "rescue" be viewed as a kind of captivity narrative in its own right, and how does it relate to writings by Native American Zitkala-Ša (Gertrude Simmons Bonnin) about her forced white education?



A depiction of the captivity of Hannah Duston.
Photo courtesy of Heritage History (www.heritage-history.com).

The Indian captivity narrative of Hannah Duston has likewise been many times retold. Hannah Duston was a colonial Massachusetts Puritan mother of nine taken captive by Abenaki Indians during King William's War. Relating the story served a purpose — just as fables teach children moral lessons. What, for example, were the motives behind the telling (and retelling) of Hannah Duston's story? How has it often been framed as a contrast between "civilization" and "savagery"? What elements of propaganda are involved?



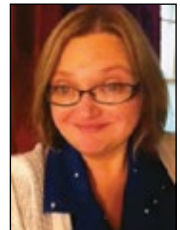
Terry A. Barnhart is professor of history and coordinator of the history department's M.A. in historical administration program. He also teaches Illinois history and the U. S. history surveys at the undergraduate level. Previous to joining the history faculty in 1994 he was an associate curator and director of special projects within the Education Division of the Ohio Historical Society. He received a Ph.D. in history from Miami University at Oxford, OH, in 1989.

Janice Derr is a reference librarian at Booth Library and subject specialist for business. She received an M.L.I.S. from the University of Missouri-Columbia and an M.A. in English literature from Eastern Illinois University.



Laura Russman received a B.A. in history with minors in museum studies, sociology, and American culture and ethnic studies from Aurora University in May 2014. She is enrolled in Eastern Illinois University's historical administration master's program and works part time for the Illinois Regional Archives Depository in Booth Library. Her interest in native American representation in literature stems from her experience working at the Schingoethe Center for Native American Cultures during her years at Aurora University.

Angela Vietto, a member of the English faculty at Eastern Illinois University since 2000, specializes in American literature and became interested in the literary depiction of relations between native peoples and European-Americans while earning her doctorate at Penn State. Her paper on Cynthia Ann Parker's second captivity, considered in light of Zitkala Sa's writings about forced education, is intended as part of a book chapter she is writing that examines the cultural uses of family history and genealogy in American literature.



Other Programs

Cynthia Ann Parker as a Teaching Tool

Students taught by Linda Sherwood from two courses, ELE3280 Reading Methods and ELE3340 Social Studies Methods, will focus their research and projects on Cynthia Ann Parker for the spring 2015 semester. The students will design lessons around the life and story of Cynthia Ann Parker to create a unit with the central focus on reading and social studies. These lessons will be aligned with the Common Core. The pre-service teachers will be involved in designing a take-home project that area fifth-grade students will complete as they tour the Cynthia Ann Parker exhibit in Booth Library. They will also serve as docents on the days the students visit. As an extension to this project, the early childhood/elementary/middle level education majors will travel to Mattoon Middle School to make presentations to the sixth-grade reading and social studies classes taught by Eddie and Tiffany Williams. This cross-curricular approach of combining reading and social studies helps students make connections to practical learning while providing invaluable experience to the pre-service teacher.



Linda Sherwood obtained a B.S. in education in 1971 and an M.S. in education in 1976 at Eastern Illinois University, in addition to 36 additional hours from various institutions of higher education. She taught for 35 years in the Martinsville Elementary public school system. For the past 10 years, she has been an instructor at EIU in the EC/ELE/MLE Department teaching pre-service teachers in methods courses. During the decade, she has worked to establish partnerships with area schools to enable her students to have more face time with the school-aged students they will potentially teach upon graduation. In her classroom instruction she provides pre-service teachers with elementary and middle level strategies in reading and social studies using a hands-on, practical approach.

The Tarble Arts Center's 2015 Spring Fifth Grade Enrichment program was designed to complement Booth Library's exhibit, *Quanah and Cynthia Ann Parker: The History and the Legend*. The Tarble will focus on the exhibition, *Southwestern Pottery and Weavings from the Tarble and Area Collections*. Featured are historic period and contemporary ceramics from the American Southwest and Navajo weavings from the Tarble Arts Center's study collection, complemented by pieces from area public and private collections. Following a gallery tour/discussion about the art forms and their cultural significance, students will create a design project using acrylic paint in the Tarble classroom inspired by works presented in the exhibition. These activities are coordinated by Kit Morice, Tarble curator of education.

Related Exhibits at Booth Library



Cynthia Ann Parker

Reference Hallway

Cynthia Ann Parker was born in the Charleston area in the 1820s. She traveled with her family to east Texas in the 1830s and was taken captive during a Comanche raid. She assimilated into the tribe, married one of its members and gave birth to three children, including Quanah Parker, the last Comanche chief. In 1860, she was “rescued” and returned to her white family. This exhibit examines Cynthia Ann’s extraordinary life and her struggle to fit into two very different worlds. **Curator: Janice Derr**

This daguerreotype of Cynthia Ann Parker was made in 1861 when she was taken to Austin, TX, for a session of the 9th Texas Legislature, which was to consider awarding her a pension and a grant of land. Photo courtesy of Museum of the Great Plains.

Quanah Parker

Reference Hallway

The son of Peta Nocona, a Comanche chief, and Cynthia Ann Parker, Quanah Parker emerged as a prominent Native American leader in the late 1800s. He served as one of the chiefs of the Comanche people during the difficult early reservation period in Oklahoma. This exhibit provides a pictorial study of Parker’s life.

Curator: Bradley Tolpmanen



Quanah Parker, 1885, taken on the porch of Star House. Photo courtesy of Museum of the Great Plains.

The Parker Family in Charleston

Marvin Foyer

The Parker family was among the first white settlers of the area we now call Coles County. The Parkers were instrumental in laying the foundation of Charleston as the county seat and were influential in many areas of local politics. This exhibit explores the early days of Charleston, IL, and one of its founding families. **Curators: Janice Derr and Beth Heldebrandt**



Hollywood Indians: Depictions of Native Americans in Mainstream Feature Films

Marvin Foyer

This exhibit includes film poster reproductions from famous movies in which Native Americans are characterized. Additionally, the exhibit displays several books from Booth's collection relevant to this theme. **Curators: Steve Brantley and Marlene Slough**

Captivity Narratives with an Agenda

Marvin Foyer

The evolution of the captivity narrative, from religious narrative, to propaganda narrative to that of sensational fiction, occurred from the 17th through the 19th centuries. Samples of these narrative qualities will be presented in this exhibit through the documented experiences of women, children, men, African Americans and Native Americans, many with ties to Illinois. **Curator: Lee Whitacre**



Image from *Narrative of the Capture and Providential Escape of Misses Frances and Almira Hall*.

Frances Slocum, Lost Sister of the Wyoming

Marvin Foyer

Frances Slocum was a 5-year-old Quaker girl when she was kidnapped by the Delaware Indians in 1778. From the Wyoming Valley of Pennsylvania, she was taken to various locations in Ohio and Indiana and adopted by a Delaware couple and raised as their child. She eventually married a Miami chief and lived most of her adult life in a settlement near Peru, IN. Her Pennsylvania family never stopped searching for her, offering substantial rewards. It was only when Frances herself, long known as "Maconaquah," told what she remembered of her life story to a trusted white trapper that her family received word of her existence. Although her story is barely known today, poems, historical accounts, novels and children's books were written about her in the 19th and early 20th centuries. **Curator: Pamela Ferrell**

Quanah Parker and Teddy Roosevelt

Marvin Foyer

One of six Native American leaders invited to participate in Theodore Roosevelt's 1905 inauguration parade, Parker was a frequent traveler to the capital to advocate for the Comanche. Back home in Oklahoma, Parker joined Roosevelt on a wolf hunt in April 1905. During the hunt, Roosevelt dined with Parker at his home, the Star House, where they discussed Comanche land ownership and unemployment. Many scholars cite this visit as the impetus for the congressional appropriation that led to the repatriation of bison in the Wichita Mountains Wildlife preserve located north of Star House. **Curator: Stacey Knight-Davis**



In 1905, President Teddy Roosevelt, Quanah Parker and others participated in a wolf hunt. Photo courtesy of Lance Tahmahkera, great-great-grandson of Quanah Parker.

Going Westward

Ballenger Teachers Center

In August 1833, Cynthia Ann Parker's family left the Charleston area and traveled westward in covered wagons led by oxen. Their journey was slow and arduous, but worthwhile because they were hoping to create better lives in Texas. On a good day, they could cover 15 to 20 miles, but bad weather and rough terrain could reduce their progress to only one or two miles per day. Imagine this contrasted with today's travel by interstate highway. Why would anyone choose to follow what was called America's "Manifest Destiny"? Follow the Parkers' travels from Illinois to Texas and learn why they made this journey. **Curators: Jeanne Goble and Sally van der Graaff**



Preachin' Parkers: Elder John Parker's Family Tree

South Lobby

The "Preachin' Parkers" are considered to be among the first non-Indian settlers of present-day Coles County, moving here from Crawford County, IL, in 1824. The patriarch of the clan was Elder John, who was born in Maryland, served two stints in the Revolutionary War, and migrated with his family to Virginia, Georgia and Tennessee before coming to Illinois. Devout Hardshell or Predestinarian Baptists, the Parkers, it is said, felt called by God to spread His Word throughout the countryside. This exhibit displays the family tree of Elder John and Sarah Parker and their 13 children. **Curator: Beth Heldebrandt**

Related Exhibit at Tarble Arts Center

Early American Folk Art in East-Central Illinois

Tarble Arts Center eGallery

This exhibition presents a sampling of American folk art circa 1830 to 1860 found in east-central Illinois. The recently restored portraits of Charles Morton (for whom Charleston is named) and his wife, Hannah, serve as the centerpieces for the exhibition. Also featured are coverlets, quilts, furniture, ceramics, other portraits and a powder horn from or found in early east-central Illinois. Included are works from the Tarble's collection, and from area public and private collections.

Guided tours of the exhibit will be offered from 1 to 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20, and from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 21. This exhibit will be on display through March 1. The exhibition and tours (co-sponsored with the EIU Academy of Lifelong Learning) are presented in conjunction with the exhibition and symposium *Quanah and Cynthia Ann Parker: The History and the Legend* at Booth Library; like the Mortons, the Parkers were early settlers of Coles County.



Portrait of Charles Morton, c. 1840, oil on canvas, 28 in. by 24 in., Tarble Arts Center permanent collection. Gift of Charleston Cemeteries Inc. with assistance from the Coles County Historical Society; given in memory of Lucille Skidmore and James Skidmore, who donated the portraits to the Charleston Cemetery Association (precursor to Charleston Cemeteries Inc.).

Curators



Steve Brantley is an associate professor and the head of reference services at Booth Library. He joined Booth in August of 2013. He is the bibliographer for communication studies and develops the library media collections, with a focus on world cinema and film history. He has an M.L.S. degree and an M.A. degree in media and cultural studies, both from Indiana University.



Janice Derr is a reference librarian at Booth Library and subject specialist for business. She received an M.L.I.S. from the University of Missouri-Columbia and an M.A. in English literature from Eastern Illinois University.

Pamela Ferrell is a professor and reference librarian at Booth Library, and serves as subject bibliographer for communication disorders and sciences, foreign languages, Latin American studies and women's studies. She has an M.S. in audiology and an M.L.S., both from Florida State University.



Jeanne Goble is a senior library specialist at Booth Library's Ballenger Teachers Center. She has English, education and library science degrees from Eastern. She has interests in the arts, children's literature, and international folklore and customs.

Beth Heldebrandt is public relations director at Booth Library. She earned a B.S. in journalism from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and an M.A. in English from Eastern Illinois University. She is an adjunct instructor for Eastern's journalism department, chairwoman of the Mattoon Arts Council and secretary of the Tarble Arts Center Advisory Board.





Stacey Knight-Davis is an associate professor, head of Library Technology Services and subject librarian for health studies and nursing at Booth Library. She has an M.L.I.S. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and an M.S. in technology from Eastern Illinois University.

Marlene Slough is a professor and acquisitions librarian at Booth Library. She serves as subject bibliographer for the areas of art, and family and consumer sciences. She received an M.L.I.S. from the University of Missouri-Columbia and an M.A. in English literature from Eastern.

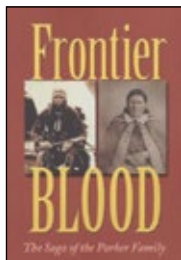


Bradley Tolppanen is a professor and librarian at Booth Library. He holds graduate degrees from the University of New Brunswick and the University of Alberta.

Sally van der Graaff, a senior library specialist in the Reference Department of Booth Library, enjoys collaborating on exhibits designed to inform patrons and enhance the library. She has always had a special interest in history and culture, particularly as they intersect with education.



Lee Whitacre has a B.A. degree in English with a minor in creative writing from Eastern. She serves as a senior library specialist in acquisitions at Booth Library. She is working on an M.A. in English literary studies.



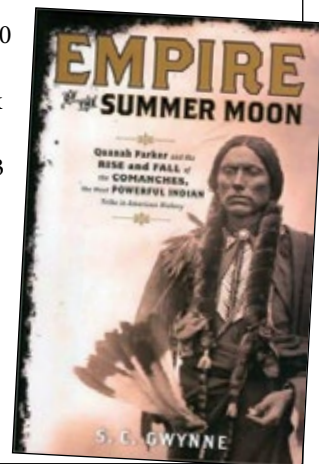
Selected Resources

Booth Library's book and media collections contain many items related to the Quanah and Cynthia Ann Parker story. All of the following may be borrowed from the Booth Library collections, and many others are available through our interlibrary loan service.

Bibliographer: Marlene Slough

Nonfiction:

- Carlson, Paul H. and Tom Crum. *Myth, Memory, and Massacre: The Pease River Capture of Cynthia Ann Parker*.....E83.8596 .C37 2010
- De Shields, James T. *Cynthia Ann Parker: The Story of Her Capture at the Massacre of the Inmates of Parker's Fort: Of Her Quarter of a Century Spent Among the Comanches, as the Wife of the War Chief, Peta Nocona: And of Her Recapture at the Battle of Pease River, by Captain L.S. Ross, of the Texian Rangers*.....E87 .P24
- Exley, Jo Ella Powell. *Frontier Blood: The Saga of the Parker Family*.....F385 .E95 2009x
- Fallwell, Gene. *The Comanche Trail of Thunder and the Massacre at Parker's Fort*.....E87.C85 F35 1968x
- Frankel, Glenn. *The Searchers: The Making of an American Legend*.....PN1997.S3197 F83 2013
- Gwynne, S.C. *Empire of the Summer Moon: Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, the Most Powerful Indian Tribe in American History*.....E99.C85 P3835 2010
- Hacker, Margaret Schmidt. *Cynthia Ann Parker: The Life and the Legend*.....E87.P28 H24 1990x
- Hagan, William T. *Quanah Parker, Comanche Chief*.....E99.C85 P3838 1993
- Haley, J. Evetts. *Men of Fiber*.....F385 .H3 1963x
- Jackson, Clyde L. and Grace Jackson. *Quanah Parker, Last Chief of the Comanches: A Study in Southwestern Frontier History*.....E90.P19 J3
- Jackson, Grace. *Cynthia Ann Parker*.....E87 .P245
- Neeley, Bill. *The Last Comanche Chief: The Life and Times of Quanah Parker*.....E99.C85 P385 1995



Ramsay, Jack C. Jr. *Sunshine on the Prairie: The Story of Cynthia Ann Parker*.....E99.C85 P377 1990
 Selden, Jack K. *Return: The Parker Story*.....F385 .S45 2006
 VanDerBeets, Richard. *Held Captive by Indians: Selected Narratives, 1642-1836*.....E85 .V36 1994
 Vanderwerth, W.C. *Indian Oratory: Famous Speeches by Noted Indian Chieftains*.....E98.O7 V33

Historical Fiction:

Brashear, Charles. *Killing Cynthia Ann: A Novel*.....PS3552.R3276 K5 2011x
 Jones, Douglas C. *Gone the Dreams and Dancing*.....PS3560.O478 G6 1984
 Jones, Douglas C. *Season of Yellow Leaf*.....PS3560.O478 S4 1983
 Robson, Lucia St. Clair. *Ride the Wind: The Story of Cynthia Ann Parker
 and the Last Days of the Comanche*.....PS3568.O3185 R5 1982
 Stoelting, Willard. *Comanche Captive*.....PS3619.T6384 C66 2003x



Juvenile Works:

Egan, Tracie. *Cynthia Ann Parker: Comanche Captive*.....BTC 976.4 P2239eg
 Freedman, Russell. *Indian Chiefs*.....BTC 970.004 F875I
 Gonzalez, Catherine Troxell. *Cynthia Ann Parker, Indian Captive*.....BTC 976.4 P2239g
 Marrin, Albert. *Plains Warrior: Chief Quanah Parker and the Comanches*.....BTC 973 M3495P
 Meyer, Carolyn. *Where the Broken Heart Still Beats: The Story of Cynthia Ann Parker*.....BTC 813 M573wh
 Rhodes, Cynthia Kay. *Between Two Worlds: The Legend of Quanah Parker*.....BTC 976.4 P227rh

Films:

Following the Parker Trail.....F385 .F58 2013x .DVD
The Daughter of Dawn.....PN1997 .D31334x .DVD
The Searchers.....PN1997 .S427x .DVD
Two Rode Together.....PN1997 .T8747x .DVD



Internet Resources:

Bank Robbery, 1908 film.....<http://booth.eiu.edu/bankrob>
 Carter, Robert Goldwaithe. *Tragedies of Cañon Blanco:
 A Story of the Texas Panhandle*.....HathiTrust Digital Library
 Hooker, Forrestine C. *Star: The Story of an Indian Pony*.....HathiTrust Digital Library
Quanah Parker: The Last Comanche, 1992 film.....Alexander Street Press (Booth Library e-resource)

Credits

Quanah and Cynthia Ann Parker: The History and the Legend, developed and produced by the faculty and staff of Booth Library, has been made possible in part by a grant from the Illinois Humanities Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Illinois General Assembly. Additional support was provided by the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian.

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Unless otherwise noted, all images in this brochure were submitted or are from materials held in the Booth Library collection.

The Texas Lakes Trail and Texas Trail of Fame were instrumental in providing many of the historic photographs found in the exhibit.

Cover images:

Cynthia Ann Parker with Prairie Flower, 1861, daguerreotype, made in Fort Worth, TX, shortly after her repatriation. Photo courtesy of Museum of the Great Plains, Lawton, OK.

Quanah Parker, 1890. Photo courtesy of National Anthropological Archives.

* Special thanks to Carolyn Stephens, Becky Parker, James David Parker and David Parker for their research help and support, and to Mike Watts and Kit Morice of the Tarble Arts Center.

Coming to Booth Library in September 2015

Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War: This traveling exhibit offers a fresh and innovative perspective on Abraham Lincoln that focuses on his struggle to meet the political and constitutional challenges of the Civil War. It explores how Lincoln used the Constitution to confront three intertwined crises of the war — the secession of Southern states, slavery and wartime civil liberties. The exhibit is designed to provide visitors with a more complete understanding of Lincoln as president and the Civil War as the nation's gravest constitutional crisis.

“Forty years ago my mother died. She captured by Comanches, nine years old. Love Indian and wild life so well, no want to go back to white folks. All same people anyway, God say. I love my mother.”

- Quanah Parker, 1910



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